

FACTSHEET

Olympic Solidarity

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History

The International Olympic Committee (IOC)'s idea of supporting a number of National Olympic Committees (NOCs) after their countries gained independence originated in the 1960s. An International Olympic Aid Committee (IOAC) was created in 1962 and transformed in 1968 into an IOC Commission with the same name. In 1971, the Commission was merged with a similar body created by the Permanent General Assembly of NOCs (the predecessor of the Association of National Olympic Committees [ANOC]) and became the committee for the Olympic Solidarity.

In 1981, in accordance with the decision of the then IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch, and then ANOC President and IOC member Mario Vázquez Raña, the Olympic Solidarity Commission acquired its definitive form, with the task of satisfying the needs and interests of the NOCs. In 2001, IOC President Jacques Rogge decided to strengthen the work of the Olympic Solidarity Commission and to create continental programmes to respond to the needs, priorities and interests of the NOCs and the particularities of their continents. To this end, he restructured the Commission and appointed Mario Vázquez Raña as its Chairman.

The Commission is composed of individual members appointed by the IOC President. Dr. Robin E. Mitchell, IOC member, is the Chair of the Olympic Solidarity Commission.

Mission

Olympic Solidarity's mission is to provide assistance to NOCs for athletes' development programmes, in particular those with the greatest need of it, in order that NOCs may fulfil their responsibilities to the

Olympic Movement while adhering to the IOC's strategy.

This assistance takes the form of programmes elaborated jointly by the IOC and the NOCs, with the technical assistance of the International Sports Federations (IFs), if necessary. Olympic Solidarity manages the share of the broadcast rights from the Olympic Games earmarked for the NOCs and redistributes these funds through programmes offered to all NOCs recognised by the IOC.

The mission of Olympic Solidarity is enshrined in Rule 5 (and its bye-laws) of the [Olympic Charter](#).

Funding

The sole source of funding for Olympic Solidarity's operations and the activities of each of the programmes it offers is the NOCs' share of revenue from broadcast rights from the Olympic Games. The Olympic Solidarity Commission is responsible for defining the orientation and managing the work of Olympic Solidarity, which includes approving the programmes and related budgets, based on the four-year plans, and monitoring the activities carried out. The development and assistance budget approved by the Olympic Solidarity Commission for the 2021-2024 period totals USD 590,000,000, which is 16 per cent higher overall than the budget for the previous plan.

Impact of COVID-19 on Olympic Solidarity budget and activities

Following the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Olympic Solidarity rapidly put in place exceptional measures to support the NOCs and their athletes in this unique situation:

- The Olympic Scholarships for Athletes "Tokyo 2020" programme was immediately extended by



an additional year and an extra budget of USD 15,000,000 was allocated to cover the period from September 2020 to August 2021.

- A postponement subsidy was offered to the NOCs, meaning that an additional USD 10,300,000 was added to the USD 46,700,000 budget allocated for the programme of IOC Subsidies for NOCs' Participation in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020.

At the same time, from the funds received from Olympic Solidarity, ANOC made available a budget of USD 11,650,000 to the Continental Associations, enabling NOCs to continue the optimal preparation of their athletes and help them in the general crisis management during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2021-2024 programmes

Olympic Solidarity offers the NOCs an efficient consulting service to assist them in gaining access to financial, technical and administrative assistance through:

- I. World Programmes, which cover and reinforce all areas of sports development;
- II. Continental Programmes, designed to meet some of the specific needs of each continent;
- III. IOC Subsidies for NOCs' participation in Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games, which help the NOCs to participate in these Games and allow them to benefit from financial assistance.

I. World programmes 2021-2024

These are divided into three development areas and five programme clusters:

1. Athletes and Sport Development;
2. Values;
3. Capacity Building and Administration.

1) Athletes and sport development

The 13 programmes of this area are targeting assistance at athletes at different levels of development, their entourage and structures meant to support them. Successful implementation of these programmes should contribute to the improved universality of the Olympic Games and the development of sport worldwide.

Olympic Games Universality

1.1 Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “Tokyo 2020”

This programme offers substantial assistance to elite international athletes nominated by their respective NOCs for their preparation and qualification for the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, paying attention to athletes and NOCs with limited financial means. This programme, available to all NOCs, was officially launched in September 2017 and will close in July 2021 (one year later than previously planned due to the postponement of the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020).

1.2 Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “Beijing 2022”

This programme offers to the NOCs the chance to provide their athletes with the support they need to prepare and attempt to qualify for the Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022. Its main goal is to improve the competitiveness of the Olympic Winter Games rather than to expand artificially the universality of these Games. Consequently, this programme is available only to NOCs that took part in the Olympic Winter Games PyeongChang 2018 and has a strong winter sports tradition. The Olympic scholarships are available from 1 November 2019 until 28 February 2022.

1.3 Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “Paris 2024”

The programme is designed to assist elite athletes selected and proposed by their respective NOCs in their preparation and qualification for the Games of the XXXIII Olympiad Paris 2024, with a focus on athletes and NOCs with the greatest needs. The programme is operational from 1 January 2022 until 31 August 2024. The starting date in 2022 is due to the extension of the Tokyo scholarships.

1.4 Olympic Scholarships for Athletes “Milano Cortina 2026”

The Scholarship Programme Milano-Cortina 2026 is designed to improve the competitiveness of the Olympic Winter Games rather than to expand artificially the universality of these Games. The



programme is operational from 1 November 2023 to 28 February 2026.

Some figures from the previous scholarships programme:

Beijing 2022:

- **429** athletes (265 men and 164 women) allocated to 80 NOC;
- **236** scholarship holders (138 men, 98 women) qualified for the Games;
- **10** medals (3 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze) and 35 diplomas won by athletes who received an individual scholarship;
- **13** tailor-made grants were allocated;
- **3** medals (1 silver and 2 bronze) and 2 diplomas won by teams having benefited from the tailor-made grant.

Tokyo 2020:

- **1,836** Olympic scholarships allocated to 186 NOCs;
- **827** Olympic scholarship holders (470 men and 357 women) from 178 NOCs participating in the Games in 26 sports;
- **56** additional scholarships were allocated to refugee athletes; of these athletes, 29 (19 men and 10 women) from 13 host NOCs competed in 12 sports in the IOC Refugee Olympic Team;
- **113** medals (30 gold, 36 silver, 47 bronze) and 185 diplomas won by Olympic scholarship holders.

1.5 Team support grant

This programme offers financial assistance to one national team per NOC to prepare and participate in regional, continental or world level competitions with a view to qualifying for the Olympic Games. Each NOC can submit a request for a grant for one team in a summer sport and another team in a winter sport. The NOCs can give priority to the competitions that they consider the most important.

Entourage

1.6 Technical Courses for Coaches

The objective is to offer short term training opportunities at different levels for active coaches

officially recognised by their national federation (NF) and working in their own country.

1.7 Olympic Scholarships for Coaches

These scholarships allow coaches officially recognised by their NF and active in their country to benefit from continuous high-level training and acquire experience and know-how, which they will then be responsible for placing at the service of their national sports system.

1.8 Athletes career transition

This programme offers NOCs assistance to support athletes at various stages of their career through financial and supportive measures in view of a successful post athlete career.

1.9 NOC athletes' commission activities grant

These grants empower athletes and contributes to the development of an effective global athletes' representation network at national level by strengthening direct financial support for NOC Athletes Commission activities.

Sport Development

1.10 Development of National Sports System

The objective is to enable NOCs to develop and strengthen their basic coaching structures and related sport systems by putting in place a medium or long-term action plan for one or more sports on the Olympic programme.

1.11 Continental athlete support grant

The aim is to offer financial and technical assistance to NOCs to prepare their athletes for international competitions and multi-sport Games.

1.12 Youth athlete development

The programme offers NOCs assistance to identify and train young athletes for youth competitions as well as to support athletes to take part in qualification events in view of their selection to participate in the Summer and Winter Youth Olympic Games.



1.13 Refugee athlete support

It offers the NOCs a programme that provides the opportunity to identify and support a limited number of refugee athletes living in their countries to prepare and participate in international competitions.

2) Values

Olympic Values

The Olympic Values Programme aims to provide the assistance required for NOCs to bring the fundamental principles of Olympism to life and fulfil the role of a NOC as outlined in the Olympic Charter. This entails promoting sport for all and the fundamental principles and values of Olympism in the field of sport and education, ensuring a level playing field without discrimination of any kind and supporting athlete health and integrity. The programme is structured around two main results areas:

- Organisation level change;
- Community level change.

3) Capacity building and administration

The six programmes provide NOCs with the information and the capacity needed to ensure support for their athletes, promotion of the fundamental principles of Olympism and observance of good governance.

NOC Management and Knowledge Sharing

3.1 NOC administration development

The programme helps NOCs develop and maintain solid and sustainable administrative structures, able to deliver the support needed by their athletes and members. The Administrative Subsidy enables NOCs to run their organisations by providing a contribution towards their running costs, while NOC Management Initiatives enable NOCs to strengthen their management structures (and address their management weaknesses) by providing a contribution towards projects aiming to improve their management.

3.2 National Courses for Sports Administrators

The objective is to build the capacity of NOCs and their constituents by enabling NOCs to deliver management training in the form of Sports Administrators Courses and Advanced Sports Management Courses, by means of Olympic Solidarity-provided training materials, course frameworks, and trained course deliverers.

3.3 International Executive Courses in Sports Management

This programme aims at building the capacity of NOCs and their constituents by providing access to high-level international sport management training through [MEMOS](#) (Executive Masters in Sport Organisation Management).

3.4 NOC exchanges

The objective is to build the capacity of NOCs and their constituents by promoting and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among NOCs.

3.5 Forums for NOCs and their Athletes

It is to promote concepts and provide strategic and topical information and ideas to National Olympic Committees (NOCs) and their athletes.

3.6 Special projects

This fund is to respond to special requests from NOCs as a result of extraordinary or unexpected circumstances. It may also address “normal” situations and/or projects submitted by NOCs, which may not be covered through the general Olympic Solidarity programmes.

II. Continental programmes

The continental programmes offer the NOCs access to technical, financial and administrative assistance which addresses the specific needs and priorities of the NOCs in each continent.

The programmes’ funds must be allocated primarily to NOCs for the development of their own national activity programme. The NOCs can thus improve their operational efficiency by selecting activities that take



into account the current local context and the reality on the ground. The standard programmes for each continental association must, in principle, cover the following basic elements: administration, running costs and organisation of statutory meetings. In parallel, the continental associations can set aside some of the funds to develop specific programmes in accordance with the particular needs and situation of their continent. The Continental Programmes are managed by the five Olympic Solidarity offices (Abuja (NGR), Mexico City (MEX), Hawalli (KUW), Rome (ITA), and Suva (FIJ)) within the Continental Associations in full coordination with the international Olympic Solidarity office in Lausanne.

III. IOC subsidies for NOCs' participation in Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games

These subsidies aim to assist NOCs to cover part of the costs linked to their participation in the Olympic Games and the Youth Olympic Games. This financial assistance has two complementary goals: to help foster the universal spirit of the Olympic Games by guaranteeing the participation of all NOCs, and to give additional support to NOCs based on their contribution to the development and success of the Games.

For the Olympic Games, the subsidies are allocated in three steps:

- Before the Games, they cover part of the cost for one person to attend the Chefs de Mission seminar with the Organising Committee of the Games;
- During the Games, they contribute to the travel costs for a number of athletes and officials taking part in the Games and accommodation costs for two rooms per NOCs (up to max. 20 nights);
- After the Games, subsidies are given to the NOCs in recognition of their contribution to the success of the Games.

For the Youth Olympic Games, subsidies are allocated in two steps:

- Before the Games, they cover part of the travelling and accommodation costs for one person to attend the Chefs de Mission seminar;
- During the Games, the financial assistance covers the costs related to travel and accommodation of the delegations in the Youth Olympic Village.

Breakdown of budget for 2021-2024:

I. World Programmes

USD 258,270,000

II. Continental Programmes and ANOC

USD 222,100,000

III. IOC Subsidies for NOCs' Participation in Olympic Games and Youth Olympic Games

USD 70,500,000

Administration

USD 22,600,000

Technical Support Services

USD 16,530,000

Total USD 590,000,000

I. Breakdown of "world programmes" budget 2021-2024:

Athletes and Sport Development

USD 160,000,000

Capacity Building and Administration

USD 73,270,000

Values

USD 25,000,000

Total USD 258,270,000

II. Breakdown of "continental programmes" budget 2021-2024:

Africa (ANOC) - 54 NOCs

USD 51,000,000

America (Panam Sports) - 41 NOCs :

USD 40,100,000

Asia (OCA) - 44 NOCs

USD 42,200,000

Europe (EOC) - 50 NOCs

USD 47,800,000

Oceania (ONOC) - 17 NOCs

USD 25,000,000

ANOC

USD 16,000,000

Total USD 222,100,000

More information at the following address:

<https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-solidarity>



For further information, please contact:

Olympic Solidarity

solidarity@olympic.org